

Compliments of
Carl F. Kuehnle

Abraham Lincoln



ADDRESS BY
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DENISON, IOWA

ADDRESS ON LINCOLN

Mr. Carl F. Kuehnle Gives High School a Treat On Great Emancipator's Birthday.

Last Thursday was the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and it was an occasion celebrated in various ways throughout the length and breadth of this country.

In Denison the only observance was in the High School, where the faculty and students enjoyed an address on Lincoln delivered by Mr. Carl F. Kuehnle of this city. Upon this address Mr. Kuehnle had put much work and thought and many hours of research in order to give the pupils the best possible in the brief time at his disposal. That he succeeded admirably was best attested by the close attention of the assembled students and the generous applause and expressions of approval that came from them.—Denison Bulletin.

Mr. Kuehnle's Address.

Two names stand out pre-eminently in American History: George Washington, "The father of his country," and Abraham Lincoln, "The saviour of his country." Of Washington it was truly said, "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Of the latter it can be truthfully said, though humblest in origin, he became the greatest in power; though without the advantages of a liberal education, he became one of the most liberally educated men in America.

Washington was a cavalier, an aristocrat, from one of the first families of Virginia. He was a slave-holder, owner of a vast estate, and reputed to be the richest man of his day and generation. He was thrifty and a keen business man. He was a stickler for form, dignified in his carriage and traveled in state. He was the "first gentleman" of the land and all of his public acts and appearances were accompanied with great ceremony.

Lincoln was exceedingly poor, the son of a poor white of Kentucky. With limited business ability, no talent for accumulating money, careless in his personal appearance, ignorant of etiquette and the proprieties, and uncomfortable when "dressed up," he was emphatically one of the common people. He was genuinely democratic, the ideal man of the people. He is often called a genius, yet was a patient, faithful toiler, who was raised to sudden power and who triumphed by hard common sense and pains-taking industry.

Lincoln found a race in bondage and with one stroke of the pen freed FOUR MILLION black men and made the United States of America free in deed as well as in name.

He was made God's instrument to save our country from destruction and was able to inspire the American people

with his own faith in the ultimate success of the Union.

When a boy the Bible was his only book. He read and re-read it so often that he could repeat large portions of it from memory, thus unconsciously making his language clear and simple. A little later, he read Weem's "Life of Washington," "Æsop's Fables," "Robinson Crusoe," "The Arabian Nights," and "The Speeches of Henry Clay." He would read these books by the light of a wood fire on the hearth and being without paper and pencil, he was in the habit of writing choice passages with charcoal on bits of board, and thus committed them to memory.

From his earliest youth he had the ambition to become a public speaker or an orator. He lost no opportunities to make a speech and would practice on his friends whenever they would listen to him. As a boy Lincoln was remarkably strong and athletic, but not exceedingly fond of work, preferring story telling, talking and relating anecdotes. When a lad he worked for one of the neighbors in Indiana who declared that, "Abe was awful lazy. Abe once told me that his father had taught him to work, but never learned him to love it." While yet a boy, instead of going to church on Sundays, perhaps because he did not have suitable cloths, he used to select from the Bible the text from which he would preach a sermon to his sister and other children who happened along. It is said of him his speech-making propensity developed into a nuisance, for it distracted the attention of his fellow-workmen, who were ready to stop work at any time to hear him speak.

Lincoln's mother was a good woman, possessed of common sense and sterling traits. She made a deep impression upon the character of her son. Standing at her grave forty years after her death, he said to a friend, with tears in his eyes: "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother. Blessings on her memory."

He was likewise fortunate in his step-mother. Although she had chil-

dren of her own, she showed no partiality to them, but treated her two-step-children like a true mother, learning to love them both. She once said: "Abe never gave me a cross word or look and never refused in fact or in appearance to do all I requested of him."

Lincoln attended school only a short time; not over a year, all told. He was learning all the while, however, trying to excel in everything he undertook. He wanted to be the best wrestler in his community, and when "splitting rails" he tried to split more and better rails than any of the others with whom he was working, and prided himself upon being able to bury an ax deeper in a tree trunk than any of his fellows. His proficiency in this line caused him to be called "the rail-splitter" in the campaign for the presidency.

It was his habit to attend court when in session, and he became much interested in the speeches of the lawyers trying the cases. He was much impressed by a speech made by John C. Breckenridge, whom he afterwards defeated for the presidency. This determined him to study law and become a lawyer.

Lincoln came to Illinois when twenty-one years of age, a tall, gaunt youth, unaccustomed to the ways of the world. He was stronger physically than his associates. He had great length of limb and was easily champion in the rough sports in which the young men of his own age were wont to engage. He had a very taking personality and made a pleasant impression on everybody with whom he was brought into close contact. He was an inimitable story teller and had an inexhaustible store of anecdotes which he knew how to adapt to the point in hand. He had a droll humor, was witty and quick to retort.

While still a lad he was put in charge of a scow laden with provisions to be taken down the river to New Orleans and sold at the towns along the river. He made a second trip to New Orleans in charge of a flat-boat loaded with country products. While at New

Orleans he first came into actual contact with the most horrible features of slavery. At the slave market he saw human beings put up at auction and sold like cattle; he saw families separated and beheld the hopeless sorrow of father and mother as their children were torn from their arms.

He saw the whipping post and heard the stinging lash and the groans of the poor slaves. He turned away from one of these terrible scenes with the remark to his companion: "If I ever get a chance to hit that institution I will hit it hard." These experiences made him an Abolitionist even though he had been reared in Kentucky where slavery was legal.

In succession Lincoln was a farm hand, a store clerk, proprietor of a country store, and village post-master. He was elected captain of a company of volunteers in the Black Hawk war. He afterwards located a piece of land in Crawford county, Iowa, upon the warrant issued to him by the government for services in that war. This land is in section 18, Goodrich township, now owned by Peter Jepsen. C. L. Voss of this city once owned this land, buying it of Robert Lincoln while the latter was ambassador to Great Britain.

Lincoln was defeated for the legislature, but subsequently was elected for three terms. Many years afterward he was again elected to the legislature when not a candidate but declined to serve. He became deputy county surveyor. He borrowed books of a lawyer in Springfield, studied law and was finally admitted to the bar where later he practiced law. One of his associates was Stephen A. Douglas against whom he was pitted in many law suits. They were rivals in love and in politics. Both courted Mary Todd, but Lincoln won her hand. Douglas beat Lincoln for the U. S. Senate, and Lincoln defeated Douglas for the presidency. Douglas was a Democrat, Lincoln was a Whig, but afterwards became a Republican when that party was organized. They were leaders of

their respective parties, at first local, then state, and finally national.

Lincoln had the desire to go to congress in 1842, but failed to secure the nomination. Several years thereafter he was nominated and elected to congress, but failed of re-nomination. Toward the end of his one term in congress he was a candidate for commissioner of the general land office, but failed to secure the appointment. Years after while Lincoln was president, the son of Justin Butterfield who had been appointed commissioner, was an applicant for a presidential office. Lincoln said: "Justin Butterfield got an office when I was a candidate for the place in which my friends thought I could have been useful, and to which I thought I was fairly entitled, and I hardly ever felt so badly in my life, but I am glad of an opportunity of doing a service to his son," and he promptly appointed him. This is a sample of his magnanimity and generosity.

Lincoln was daily becoming more and more proficient and convincing as a public speaker. When a young man he had joined the Young Men's Lyceum at Springfield where the lawyers and local public men were wont to debate public and other questions. He did much political campaigning besides speaking in the courts in the trial of law suits. In those pioneer days the lawyers were literally circuit riders and went from place to place making the rounds of the circuit with the judge. While waiting for their cases to be reached for trial the lawyers had much opportunity for visiting and telling stories. Lincoln was a prince of story-tellers.

He made friends; he was very popular, frank, cordial, good-natured, genial, sympathetic, helpful and kind. He was absolutely free from jealousy, rejoiced at the success of his friends, and though prone to create a laugh at the expense of others, never allowed himself to say anything unkind or caustic. This, added to his ability, wide information and keenness early marked him for a leader of men. As you know, Lincoln was

very homely. One day a stranger who was himself homely, said to Lincoln, "Excuse me sir, I have an article in my possession which belongs to you." "How is that?" asked Lincoln. The stranger took a jack knife from his pocket and handed it to Lincoln, saying, "This was given to me years ago to keep until I found a man uglier than myself. Take it; you are fairly entitled to it."

One day Lincoln was trying a law suit growing out of a horse trade with Judge Logan on the other side. Logan was about as careless in his dress as was Lincoln and in his hurry that morning had put on his shirt with the bosom in the back. Logan had considerable knowledge of horse points and was freely displaying it. It was a hot day and Logan took off his coat when he spoke to the jury. When he finished Lincoln turned Logan around to the jury and asked, "What dependence can you place in the Judge's horse knowledge when he hasn't horse sense enough to put on his shirt," and thus won his case.

As a lawyer Lincoln was not technical, but forceful and always straight forward and frank. He was not in the habit of trying to confuse witnesses, and was never given to browbeating them. He was innately honest and manifested it in his court work as well as elsewhere. He well deserved the title, "Honest Abe."

The following incident is related while Lincoln was defending a man charged with murder. The chief witness for the state was a disreputable character who testified that he had heard the defendant make threats and also that he had seen the foul deed performed by the light of the full moon. Lincoln had the witness testify a second time that there was a full moon that night. He introduced no evidence except an almanac to show that there was no moon on that night, and the defendant was acquitted by the jury without leaving their seats.

The names of Lincoln and Douglas are closely associated. Douglas was the author of the Kansas-Nebraska bill which annulled the Missouri Com-

promise, and left each state to decide for itself whether or not it should have slavery. Douglas stated it in the bill as follows: "It being the true intent and meaning of this Act not to legislate slavery into any territory or state, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States." By means of his eloquence and untiring efforts this bill became a law, despite the opposition of Sumner, Chase and Seward. The old statutory objection to the spread of slavery was swept away by this law, and there was nothing to hinder the introduction of the institution into any territory over which the American flag floated. As a result "Squatter Sovereignty" was proclaimed in the disputed territory. The doctrine was that each state was sovereign within its own limits and had the power to adopt or exclude slavery as it desired. Each state could decide by ballot whether it should be free or slave. Lincoln tersely summed up the doctrine as follows: "If any one man chose to enslave another, no third man shall be allowed to object."

The passage of this bill and the agitation resulting therefrom was responsible for the famous "Lincoln-Douglas Debates" in the campaign of these men for the United States Senate from Illinois. In the joint debate between Lincoln and Douglas in 1858 Douglas taunted Lincoln because when a clerk in a grocery store he had sold liquor as most grocers then did. Lincoln admitted that such was the case, but said that while I, myself was behind the bar, Douglas was in front of it."

Douglas, on another occasion, stated that his father was a cooper and that he had in his youth been apprenticed to a cabinet maker. Lincoln replied, that he knew Douglas was in the cabinet making business, having assisted in the formation of Democratic cabinets, but was not aware that his father was a cooper. Said he, "I have no doubt he was a good cooper for he made one of the

best whiskey casks I have ever seen," and nodded to Douglas, who was a notorious whiskey drinker. Although Lincoln was defeated for senator, the record made by him in these debates won him the nomination and election to the presidency.

Lincoln's platform, which became the chief tenet of the newly organized Republican party, was briefly stated as "Hostility to the further extension of slavery and its prohibition in all the territories." It is remarkable that Lincoln, who was born in Kentucky, a slave state, and who had no original antipathy to slavery should become the champion of the anti-slavery agitation and that Douglas, a native of the free state of Vermont, should become the pro-slavery advocate. Truly, "God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." However, when the war broke out, Douglas remained a Union man and sustained President Lincoln.

Lincoln was a wonderfully effective campaign speaker. He carried the crowd with him, and was able to reach the common people and made them understand the issues involved, no matter how illy informed they chanced to be. He stirred them by his pathos and earnestness, he amused them by his wit, and tickled their fancy by his drollery, he lifted them to great heights by his eloquence and intense feeling, and inspired them to do and die, if need be, for their country.

An old time Democrat, whose father and father's father had been Democrats before him, after listening to him for awhile, being convinced, against his will, stalked away, viciously jamming his cane into the ground with each step and muttering: "Lincoln is a dangerous man. He makes you believe what he says in spite of yourself and against your own wishes." This is a sample of how "those who came to scoff, remained to pray."

Lincoln was of a forgiving nature. While practicing law he was called to Cincinnati to assist in the trial of a case in which Stanton, one of the great lawyers of Pittsburg, was also

engaged. Stanton not only snubbed Lincoln, personally, but so arranged matters that he himself got to make an argument in the case while Lincoln did not, much to the chagrin and disappointment of Lincoln. Notwithstanding all this, Lincoln afterwards appointed Stanton as a member of his cabinet, recognizing his great ability and that it was for the welfare of the Union.

In a letter to Horace Greeley, who was criticising him, he said, "If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object is to save the Union and not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing a slave I would do it, and if I could do it by freeing all the slaves I would do it, and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery I do because I believe it helps to save the Union and what I forbear to do I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union."

Slavery was responsible for the Civil war. Public sentiment had gradually driven slavery out of the countries of Europe, excepting only Turkey. It was found that property declined in exact ratio to the advance of slavery; that it degraded and debased the slave-holder as well as the slave; and that the stronger slavery became the weaker became the country which tolerated it.

It was forced upon the American colonies to make a market for the slave trader. England would not tolerate it upon its own soil but abetted its introduction into the colonies. George III, though repeatedly petitioned to prohibit the traffic, did nothing to prevent it or even check it in the colonies. It was tacitly recognized in the constitution because it was doubtful if the constitution could otherwise have been adopted.

The election of Lincoln was simply made an excuse by the slave power. The South thought with the division of sentiment in the North and a united

South they could secede and set up a slave republic. Thaddeus Stephens, in a speech in the House of Representatives said: "The secession and rebellion of the South have been inculcated as a doctrine for twenty years past among slave-holding communities. At one time the tariff was deemed a sufficient cause. Then the exclusion of slavery from the territories, then some violation of the fugitive slave law; now the culminating cause is the election of a president, (Mr. Lincoln) who does not believe in the benefits of slavery, or approve of that great missionary enterprise, the slave trade. The truth is, all these things are mere pretenses. The restless spirits of the South desire to have a slave empire and use all these things as excuses. Some of them desire a more brilliant and stronger government than a republic. Their domestic institutions and the social inequality of their free people naturally prepare them for a monarchy, surrounded by a lordly nobility for a throne, founded upon the neck of labor."

Lincoln venerated the Constitution. He honestly believed and rightfully, too, that slavery could not lawfully be interfered with in the states where it had existed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution. He continually argued against the further extension of slavery—not in favor of its forced abolition unconstitutionally.

Douglas, in the debates against Lincoln, accused him of favoring the intermarriage of the black and white races, and of also being favorable to the political and social equality of the whites and the blacks.

Lincoln's reply was direct and forcible: He said: "There is a physical difference between the two races which in my judgment will probably forbid their living together on a footing of perfect equality, but there is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I hold that he is as much entitled to these

as the white man. I agree with Judge Douglas that he is not my equal in many respects, certainly not in color, perhaps not in moral or intellectual endowment. But in the right to eat the bread without the leave of anybody else which his own hand earns, he is my equal and the equal of Judge Douglas and the equal of any living man."

Lincoln made a great speech at Cooper Institute, New York, Feb. 25, 1860. The address had been carefully prepared. He was comparatively unknown as a politician until that moment. He left the platform an acknowledged statesman, who was without a peer in his knowledge of the political situation and who stated the attitude of his party more clearly and concisely than it had ever been stated before. Had he not made that speech he would not even have been considered for the presidency.

The Rev. Mr. Gulliver heard him speak. In conversation with Lincoln the following morning, Mr. Gulliver said he thought it the most remarkable speech he ever heard. Lincoln asked: "Are you sincere in what you say?"

Mr. Gulliver replied: "I mean every word of it. Indeed sir, I learned more of the art of public speaking last evening than I could from a whole course of lectures on rhetoric."

Lincoln wished to know what there was in his speech which Mr. Gulliver thought was remarkable.

Mr. Gulliver's answer was: "The clearness of your statements, the unanswerable style of your reasoning and especially your illustrations which were romance and pathos and fun and logic welded together."

The Ohio State Journal spoke in highest terms of the impression made by Mr. Lincoln upon the people. "His great height was conspicuous even in that crowd of goodly men. At first the kindness and amiability of his face strikes you: but, as he speaks the greatness and determination of his nature are apparent. Something in his manner even more than in his

words told how deeply he was affected by the enthusiasm of the people and when he appealed to them for encouragement and support every heart responded with a mute assurance of both. There was the simplicity of greatness in his unassuming and confiding manner that won its way to instant admiration."

Lincoln finally decided to issue the Emancipation Proclamation as a war measure. He warned the states in rebellion before issuing it. He finally issued the preliminary proclamation after the victory at Antietam. One hundred days thereafter and on Jan. 1, 1863, the formal Emancipation Proclamation was issued, liberating over 4,000,000 slaves from bondage. This was the greatest act of humanitarianism recorded in history.

Lincoln had appointed McClellan general of the armies even though the general was a Democrat, and had been opposed to Lincoln's election, and was hostile to his policies, because he believed him the best man for the place, but McClellan proved a failure. He seemed afraid to move against the enemy. Even when ordered to do certain things he would wait until the opportunity had been lost. He was jealous of his inferior officers. At one time when Lincoln was piqued by the failure of the general to obey the orders of the president, who is commander in chief, he indulged in this pleasantry: "If General McClellan does not wish to use the army for some days, I should like to borrow it to see if it cannot be made to do something." McClellan's insolence and insubordination as well as incompetence was so manifest that he had to be relieved of the command. Not until Grant assumed command did the Union army make any substantial progress against the rebels.

Many of the generals were jealous of Grant, "the inexperienced frontiersman and tanner from Illinois," as they called him. They charged him with being a drunkard, and that he consumed too much whiskey. Lincoln facetiously asked: "What brand of whiskey does General Grant drink? I want to send some to the rest of my

generals so that they can win victories as Grant does." Their charges against Grant were unfounded.

Some of Lincoln's enemies accused him of being a hard drinker, whereas he had been a total abstainer from his early youth. Lincoln was kind hearted to a fault, often commuting or annulling death sentences passed by court-martials. A young man had been sentenced to be shot for sleeping at his post as a sentinel. Lincoln pardoned him saying: "I could not think of going into Eternity with the blood of that poor young man on my skirts." This young man gave his life for his country at the battle of Fredericksburg. A photograph of the president was found on his body next to his heart with these words upon it: "God bless President Lincoln." Twenty-four deserters who were sentenced by court-martial to be shot, were pardoned. The commanding general said: "Unless these men are made an example of, the army itself is in danger." Lincoln replied: "General, there are already too many weeping widows in the United States. For God's sake don't ask me to add to the number, for I won't do it."

After the disastrous first battle of Bull Run, several who took part in it were explaining to the president how it happened, and told about individual instances of prowess, and the wonders that the Union forces had performed; but that they finally had to retire because they were overpowered by numbers. Lincoln humorously remarked: "So it is your notion that we whipped the rebels and then ran away from them."

People used to offer advice very freely to Lincoln. Everybody had a panacea as to how to stop the war and save the Union. They used to come to him and give their views. Many of them criticised and others denounced. One day a delegation called who were greatly excited over what they called the short-comings of the administration. Lincoln said: "Suppose, gentlemen, all the property you were worth was in gold and that you had put it in the hands of Blon-

din to carry across the Niagara river on a rope. Would you shake the cable or keep shouting up to him: "Blondin, stand up a little straighter; Blondin, stoop a little more; go a little faster; lean a little more to the north; lean a little more to the south? No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue. Gentlemen, the government is carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can; don't badger them, keep silence, and we will get you safely across."

Lincoln was a great statesman. He was the "man of the hour." He was the agent whom God raised up to save the Union. He had been regarded simply as a backwoodsman, a country lawyer, a politician, a good public speaker, a droll story teller, and many had considered him simply a buffoon or a clown, but he developed into one of the most astute statesmen the world has ever seen.

He studied the science of war, and became thoroughly versed in military affairs, keeping track of the progress of the armies and helping direct many a campaign. He was ambitious but not selfishly so. His ambition was of the laudable type. He desired to excel and to serve. He wished preferment but not beyond his merits. His wife was more ambitious than he was. She aroused him to exert himself and get political preferment. In fact but few men are ever preferred politically or otherwise unless they exert themselves. It is illustrated by this story: A certain politician once said that the office should seek the man and not the man the office, but he added that when the office is out with a lantern looking for him he ought not to conceal himself under a bushel.

Lincoln's ambition was not the ambition of an Alexander, sighing for more worlds to conquer, nor of a Caesar nor a Napoleon, but rather that of a Hampden, or a Cromwell, or a Washington, seeking only an opportunity the better to serve his country.

Lincoln was a diplomat. He was a wise, and far-seeing man. He was

exceedingly diplomatic in his treatment of the Border States, which he wished to save to the Union. General Fremont who had been the Republican Nominee for President in 1856 was a brave soldier, but a rampant Abolitionist and visionary. Lincoln appointed him to the command of the troops in Missouri. Fremont, without consulting the president, issued an order freeing all the slaves in that state. As soon as this was brought to the attention of Lincoln he rescinded the order because at that time he was exerting his utmost to keep Missouri in the Union. The state had not seceded and there was no legal warrant for freeing the slaves. Had the order of Fremont been carried out Missouri would have been lost to the Union and doubtless also the other Border States, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky which were saved to the Union by the wisdom of Lincoln. These states furnished many soldiers and performed valiant services for the Union during the war.

Lincoln's heart bled for his country. The great struggle left its impression upon his face. He was the saddest man in Washington.

He used to read Artemus Ward as a relief. A martinet once saw him reading Artemus Ward and took him to task about it wondering how he could read such a humorous book while the country was being deluged with blood. Lincoln answered: "If I did not have something to make me forget, I would die."

Lincoln and Grant were great admirers of each other. They had much in common. They were both simple, direct and persistent. Neither of them cared for pomp and display. Each appreciated and admired the sterling qualities of the other. Lincoln in commenting upon Grant's unobtrusive and quiet character said: "The only evidence you have that he is in any place is that he makes things 'git. Wherever he is, things move."

Lincoln is perhaps best known by his great speech at Gettysburg which indeed is a classic. The Westminster Review said of it: "It has but one

equal, in that pronounced upon those who fell in the first year of the Peloponnesian war, and in one respect, it is superior to that great speech. It is not only more natural, fuller of feeling, more touching and pathetic, but we know with absolute certainty that it was really delivered. Nature here takes precedence of art—even though it be the art of Thucydides."

Chase, who was secretary of the treasury wanted to be nominated for president against Lincoln in 1864, and did everything he could to advance his own selfish interests, even saying disparaging things about his chief, President Lincoln. His candidacy was short-lived because the people wanted Lincoln for a second term. Chase, however, made himself so disagreeable and was so obnoxious that his resignation from the cabinet was asked for and accepted. Notwithstanding all this, Lincoln appointed him chief justice of the supreme court of the United States upon the death of Judge Taney.

It is impossible in a brief sketch of this kind to state all the material facts in his life, or dwell upon all of his traits of character. Lincoln, however, is recognized everywhere as one of the great characters of history, who was not born great and did not have greatness thrust upon him, but who achieved it by reason of his sterling qualities.

His honesty is proverbial. He was direct, persistent, and consistent. He never did anything by halves. He was thorough. What he read, he mastered; he then thought upon it, and digested it. Without the aid of law schools or any other means he made himself a good lawyer; without any training in state-craft or war, he became a great statesman and commander. He was true to his country, and true to himself. He believed in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

He was never visionary. He respected the laws. He sought to do all things regularly according to the law. He never put his own interests or his own desires against the public good.

He was truly good and a truly great man. The world shall not often see his like. His name is a household word wherever liberty is loved and freedom abounds. His name is a beacon light to the poor and defenseless, a harbinger of refuge to the oppressed and sorrowful. Truly the elements were so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man."

He was simple, yet great; shrewd and diplomatic but honest. His eloquence was not of the oratorical type, but that which comes from the fullness of the heart. He loved popular applause, but loved honor more, and never allowed the desire to be applauded to interfere with his sense of duty or his sense of right. He was often accused of being irreligious and even an atheist, but he truly believed in the Bible, loved God, and kept His commandments. He was generous in his impulses, noble in his conduct, and "full of the milk of human kindness." He was never influenced by petty, selfish, or envious considerations and was willing to do anything and everything for the cause of the Union. Lincoln was never too busy to neglect an opportunity to show his appreciation of services to the country.

In 1864 when the conflict was at its height he wrote to Mrs. Bixby of Boston as follows:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 21, 1864.

To Mrs. Bixby, Boston, Mass.

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic, they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your

bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

A. Lincoln."

Gen. Grant paid this tribute to Lincoln:

"A man of great ability, pure patriotism, unselfish nature, full of forgiveness to his enemies, bearing malice toward none, he proved to be the man above all others for the great struggle through which the nation had to pass to place itself among the greatest in the family of nations."

James A. Garfield said of Lincoln:

"He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power, and whose spirit grew gentler as his triumphs were multiplied."

Benjamin Harrison wrote of him:

"In the broad common-sense way in which he did small things, he was larger than any situation in which life had placed him."

Grover Cleveland called him: "A supremely great and good man."

Wm. McKinley said: "The story of this simple life is the story of a plain, honest, manly citizen, true patriot, and profound statesman, who believing with all the strength of his mighty soul in the institutions of his country, won because of them the highest place in its government—then fell a precious sacrifice to the Union he held so dear, which Providence had spared his life long enough to save."

Theodore Roosevelt wrote: "Nothing was more noteworthy in all of Lincoln's character than the way in which he combined fealty to the loftiest ideal with a thoroughly practical capacity to achieve that ideal by practical methods. He did not war with phantoms; he did not struggle among the clouds; he faced facts; he endeavored to get the best results he could out of the warring forces with which he had to deal."

The words of William H. Taft show his power. "Certain it is that we have never had a man in public life whose sense of duty was stronger, whose bearing toward those with whom he came in contact, whether his friends or political opponents was characterized by a greater sense of fairness than Abraham Lincoln."

James Russell Lowell paid him this beautiful tribute:

"Great Captains, with their guns and drums,

Disturb our judgment for the hour,
But at last silence comes;

These all are gone, and, standing
like a tower,

Our children shall behold his fame,

The kindly-earnest, brave, forseeing
man,

Sagacious, patient, dreading praise,
not blame,

New birth of our new soil, the first
American."

It has often been asked, Why is Lincoln loved?

Because he was a man of the people. Because he was poor and of humble origin. He knew what it was to be hungry, cold and miserable. When a boy he slept on leaves in a floorless cabin on the skin of an animal, and went ragged and bare-foot.

Because he was honest and truthful,—the name "Honest Abe" was well earned.

Because of his sterling character, because he was a man of brains. He grew and developed mentally day by day, studying and perfecting himself for the great task before him.

Because he was a modest and humble man. Because he was a kind man. He was the loving, compassionate and gentle father of his people.

Because he was practical and never tried to accomplish the impossible. He kept pace with the growth of public sentiment and struck at the right moment.

Because of his bravery, wisdom and plain common sense.

Because of his supreme faith in God.

Because of his loyalty, devotion and service to his country.

BECAUSE OF HIS TRAGIC DEATH.

History furnishes no parallel to this hero, combining as he did, modesty, humility, simplicity, sincerity, integrity, foresight, wisdom, heroism and greatness, such as made up the immortal Abraham Lincoln.

"O, slow to smite and swift to spare,
Gentle and merciful and just!
Who, in the fear of God, didst bear
The sword of power—a nation's
trust!

"Thy task is done; the bond are free;
We bear thee to an honored grave,
Whose proudest monument shall be
The broken fetters of the slave.

"Pure was thy life: its bloody close
Has placed thee with the sons of
light,
Among the noblest host of those
Who perished in the cause of
Right."